AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A process for the resolution of enantiomeric mixtures of a chiral carboxylic acid of formula R-COOH,

wherein R is a hydrocarbon residue optionally containing one or more heteroatoms and optionally mono- or polysubstituted, comprising an esterification reaction of said carboxylic acid in an organic solvent, in the presence of a stereoselective hydrolase, ~~characterized in that~~ and an orthoester of formula R^1-C(OR^2)$_3$,

in which R^1 is selected from H and C_1-C_4alkyl and R^2 is C_1-C_8alkyl or -CH_2-C_{6-10}aryl, ~~is used as the esterification reactive~~ to determine the resolution of said enantiomeric mixture of said chiral carboxylic acid.

2. (currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 is selected from H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, n-butyl.

3. (currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein said stereoselective hydrolase is a lipase selected from Candida antarctica, Candida cylindracea, Pseudomonas cepacia, Mucor miehei, Mucor javanicus, Aspergillus niger, swine pancreas, or a protease from Aspergillus subtilis.

4. (currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said esterification reaction is carried out at a temperature of 0-50°C~~, preferably at 45°C~~.

5. (currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ adding the reaction mixture with an amount of water or ~~of a~~ an alcohol with 1-8 carbon atoms equivalent to 1-5% mols compared with the mols of said chiral carboxylic acid.

6. (currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in said esterification reaction the meso form of a bicarboxylic acid ~~is used as~~ acts as the substrate.

7. (currently amended) [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carboxylic acid is selected from (±)-(R,S)-2-(2-fluoro-4-biphenyl)-propionic, (±)-(R,S)-2-(3-benzoylphenyl)-propionic, (±)-(R,S)-2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-propionic, (±)-(R,S)-2-[4-(1-oxo-2-isoindolinyl)phenyl] propionic, (±)-(R,S)-2-[4-(2-thenoyl)phenyl]-propionic, (±)-(R,S)-2-(6-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-propionic acids.

8. (currently amended) ~~The use of~~ A method for determining the resolution of an enantiomeric mixture of a chiral carboxylic acid, comprising adding an orthoester of formula $R^1-C-(OR^2)_3$,

in which R^1 is selected from H and C_1-C_4alkyl and R^2 is C_1-C_8alkyl or $-CH_2-C_{6-10}$aryl, in combination with a stereoselective hydrolase [[in]] to said mixture to determine the resolution of enantiomeric mixtures of said carboxylic chiral acids.

9. (currently amended) The ~~use~~ method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said hydrolase is a lipase selected from Candida antarctica, Candida cylindracea, Pseudomonas cepacia, Mucor miehei, Mucor javanicus, Aspergillus niger, swine pancreas, or a protease from Aspergillus subtilis.

10. (new) A process for the resolution of enantiomeric mixtures of a chiral carboxylic acid of formula R-COOH,

wherein R is a hydrocarbon residue optionally containing one or more heteroatoms and optionally mono- or polysubstituted,

comprising combining an amount of water or an alcohol having 1-8 carbon atoms equivalent to 1-5% mols of said chiral carboxylic mixture to said enantiomeric mixture, said enantiomeric mixture comprising said chiral carboxylic acid, an organic solvent, and a stereoselective hydrolase, in the presence of an orthoester of formula R^1-$C(OR^2)_3$, wherein R^1 is selected from H and C_1-C_4alkyl and R^2 is C_1-C_8alkyl or -CH_2-C_{6-10}aryl, and determining the resolution of said enantiomeric mixture of said chiral carboxylic acid.